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BOROUGH OF LOWESTOFT

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ANNUAL REPORT

by the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1950

ss

Arthur C. Gee, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

BOROUGH OF LOWESTOFT

HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1950

Chairman:
MR. COUNCILLOR KEENE

Vice-Chairman:
MR. ALDERMAN PALMER

MR. ALDERMAN LANG	MR. COUNCILLOR MARJORAM
MISS „ MANN	„ NOBBS
MRS. „ WING	„ OLDMAN
MR. COUNCILLOR BLAKE	„ PEARSON
„ D. CATCHPOLE	„ SANDERS
„ CROFT	„ THOMPSON
„ DURRANT	„ WALLER
„ FINCH	„ WARD
„ JONES	MRS. „ WOOD-GREAVES

Medical Officer of Health:
ARTHUR C. GEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer:
ISABELLA SIM, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:
A. ISHERWOOD, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector:
F. W. Y. BUCKLEY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:
R. WELCH, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

B. J. MARSHALL, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.
(Resigned Appointment, 7th December, 1950)
(Seconded to Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, 1st February, 1950)

L. V. BAILEY, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
(Appointed Temporary Additional Sanitary Inspector, 1st February, 1950)



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*Health Department,
123, High Street.*

YOUR WORSHIP THE MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the health of the Borough during the year 1950.

Official reports frequently have a habit of being little more than a collection of figures which the layman finds boring to read and difficult to interpret. I have included in this report, therefore, perhaps rather more descriptive matter than has in the past been customary, which I trust members of the Health Committee will find of interest and which will, I think, enable them to get a better idea of the work carried out in the Department during the year than they would obtain from perusing tables of statistics.

The work of a Health Department is not particularly spectacular, especially when the area for which it is responsible remains free from any unusual pestilence. The public are inclined to forget that this immunity is obtained only by constant vigilance on the part of those responsible for the public health. The year was characterised by the occurrence in several parts of the country of quite extensive outbreaks of smallpox. Lowestoft received direct contacts from three of these outbreaks, but thanks to the rapidity with which we received information of the arrival of these contacts within the Borough, the appropriate action could be taken and no outbreak occurred here. The mass vaccination of one school in the Borough was deemed advisable in one of these cases, however.

We have come to take our freedom from serious epidemic disease so much for granted in this country that there is a very real danger of the means by which this freedom has been gained becoming forgotten. There has been a marked drop in the proportion of persons vaccinated both in the Borough and in the Country as a whole, and this trend is now appearing in respect of diphtheria immunisation. The graph which I have reproduced on page 17 of this report should leave no doubts in the minds of any, of the value of such measures.

Several staff changes have taken place during the year.

Mr. B. Marshall was seconded to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries as a County Milk Regulations Officer with the Essex Agricultural Executive Committee in January, 1950. Mr. L. V. Bailey was appointed as Temporary Additional Sanitary Inspector to fill the vacancy, and upon Mr. Marshall's appointment with the Ministry becoming established in December, 1950, Mr. Bailey's appointment then became permanent.

Miss N. Turrell left the Department in November, her place as Chief Clerk being taken by Mrs. H. James.

Mr. R. C. R. Robinson resigned from his position as clerk to take up an appointment as Sanitary Inspector with Thetford U.D.C. on the 31st January, 1950.

May I take this opportunity of thanking you all, as well as the members of my staff, for your continued help and support during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR C. GEE,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1951.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (including foreshore) (Acres)	..	..	..	..	5,495
Population at 1931 Census	..	..	..	..	41,768
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1949					43,000
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books at					
December, 1949	..	..	..	..	12,587
Rateable value — 1st April, 1949	..	..	..	..	£260,091
Sum represented by a penny rate (1948/1949)	..	..			£1,002 4s. 7d.



EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

LIVE BIRTHS	Legitimate	<i>Totals</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
	Illegitimate	661 42 <hr/> 703 <hr/>	346 24 <hr/> 370 <hr/>	315 18 <hr/> 333 <hr/>
		LOWESTOFT	<i>Comparative Figures for England and Wales</i>	
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 estimated resident population mid-1950		16.3	15.8	
STILLBIRTHS —				
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births		20.9	—	
<i>Total</i>				
22				
<i>Male</i>				
9				
<i>Female</i>				
6				
DEATHS per 1,000 estimated average population		11.9	11.6	
DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE				
All infants per 1,000 live births		24.4	29.8	
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births		25.7	—	
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births		—	—	
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES (Rates per 1,000 (live and still) births)				
Puerperal Sepsis		—	0.03	
Other Puerperal Causes		—	0.15	

Comment on Vital Statistics

As anticipated, there has been a further drop in the number of live births this year, though the fall is slowing up and the birth rate per 1,000 population for the Borough is above that for England and Wales as a whole.

Lowestoft experienced its highest recent birth rate in 1947 when there were 1,020 births. In 1948 there were 837, in 1949 the figure was 716, and this year 703. This difference of some 300 odd between the 1947 figure and the 1950 figure is a substantial one and the “bulge” in the infant population represented by this immediate post-war increase will present its problems in several spheres. As an example one may quote the problem of adequate school accommodation. Very roughly, when those born in 1947 become of school age in 1952, accommodation for approximately 1,000 entrants will have to be found, whereas when this year’s children become of school age in 1955 only 700 places for entrants will be required. This bulge will present its accommodation problems throughout its school existence. Examples could be quoted of similar difficulties which must be taken into account when planning future policy in other spheres.

The deaths per 1,000 estimated population remains at much the same figure as previously. This year it coincides with the national figure very closely.

The infant mortality rate shows a fall from 29.3 per 1,000 births last year.



GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Whilst those services relating to midwifery, maternity and child welfare, Home Helps, etc., are provided by the East Suffolk County Council, and will, no doubt, be fully reported in the County Medical Officer’s Annual Report, members of the Borough Health Committee may be interested in the following particulars relating to some of these services in the Borough.

HOME HELP SERVICE

Some 188 cases were helped during the year, a total of 40 Home Helps having been on the register at one time or another. It should be pointed out that all the Home Helps are working on a part-time basis only. In the interests of economy, some curtailment of the service was necessary during the early part of the year, which produced dissatisfaction in some quarters, but it is true to say that no genuine cases of hardship have had to suffer through these economy measures.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

The attendances at the Borough Infant Welfare Centres during 1950 and comparative figures for 1949 are shown below.

Infant Welfare Centre Attendances

	1950			1949		
	0-1	1-5	Total	0-1	1-5	Total
Connaught House	2741	581	3322	2660	481	3141
Southwell Road	1363	381	1744	1806	347	2153
Oulton Broad	659	219	878	1000	195	1195
Total attendances at all three Centres			5944			6489
<i>Antenatal Attendances</i>			997			1334

The attendances at the Southwell Road and Oulton Broad Clinics show a small drop, whereas those at the Connaught House Centre have increased. The differences between the 1949 and 1950 figures are not great and are not, in themselves, of much significance.

On the other hand there has been a significant fall in the antenatal attendances. This is, no doubt, accounted for by the greater interest the family doctor is now taking in this type of work.

Much of the work which is undertaken in the Infant Welfare Centres is of an educative type and these Centres are becoming increasingly popular with the young mother having care of her first child. Evidence of this is given by the much higher number of attendances in the 0-1 year age group than in the 1-5 year group. The much smaller families of today and the fact that most girls work after marriage until their first confinement, results in the young mother of today having had little opportunity of obtaining experience of baby care, and she finds that at the Infant Welfare Centre she is able to get the information and help she requires. Combined with the Home Visiting carried out by the Health Visitors, this aspect of public health is of inestimable value in giving future generations a good start in life.

THE MIDWIFERY SERVICE

Figures for deliveries carried out by the District Midwives within the Borough during 1950 and comparative figures for 1949 are as follows:—

1949 — 480

1950 — 397

The drop in the number of cases dealt with this year is a further indication of the greater interest which the general practitioner is now taking in obstetrics.

DISTRICT NURSING

The number of attendances made under this heading are as follows:—

1949 — 23,395

1950 — 25,909

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC

The number of cases dealt with at this clinic during the year totalled 41.

HEALTH VISITING

There are five Health Visitors employed in the Borough, one of whom is also engaged for the greater part of her time in County duties. The Health Visitors also act as School Nurses and their work includes that of duties in the Clinics and Infant Welfare Centres in the Borough. On the purely health visiting side, their work consists of visiting and advising the mothers of newly-born infants, the 'encouragement' of problem families and the Home Visiting of cases of tuberculosis undergoing convalescence in their own homes.

The total number of visits carried out by the Health Visitors during the year was 12,673.



SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The public supply from the Lowestoft Water Company has been maintained satisfactorily throughout the year, both as regards quality and quantity. The average daily consumption is 1,250,000 gallons, which is approximately 29 gallons per head of population.

The supply is derived from open lakes at Lound, which are fed by shallow springs and surface water from a limited catchment area, together with river water from the upper reaches of the Bure obtained from the Yarmouth undertaking.

The treatment of the water comprises natural purification by storage, filtration by rapid and slow sand filters and finally the water is chlorinated by means of a modern automatic plant.

Every reasonable precaution is taken to protect the lakes and catchment area from pollution.

The submission of four samples of the water is made weekly by the Water Company for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis by two independent analysts. Nine samples were taken by the Health Department for confirmatory reports. The reports of all samples show them to have been satisfactory.

In consequence of the failure of the well supply to four houses in Clarkson Road, Rock Estate, Oulton Broad, the Council acted as guarantor to the Water Company. This enabled the mains supply to be extended so that a connection could be made to each house. This was subsequently accomplished upon the service of notices in accordance with the Public Health Act, 1936, as amended by the Water Act, 1945.

A survey of the area showed 41 dwelling-houses which are not provided with water supply within the dwelling-houses. The majority of the houses are not within such distance of the mains to enable a connection to be made at a reasonable cost.

As a result of negotiations between the Council and Lothingland R.D.C. an extension of the mains supply will be made in Beccles Road which will enable seventeen houses within the Borough in Beccles Road to make connections to the mains supply.

Bacteriological samples taken from wells supplying five of these houses in Beccles Road were submitted to the Public Health laboratories. The reports received shows the water to have been unsatisfactory.

HOUSING

The three factors limiting the progress in the maintenance of dwelling-houses in private ownership in a habitable condition have been resolved from cost, labour and materials into simply one of cost. This reason alone limits the activity of the Department from carrying out systematic inspections under Section 5 of the Housing Act, 1936, to that of taking action only where tenants complain of housing defects to the Department, and also restricts the work required to only essential repairs.

All complaints received have been speedily and effectively dealt with. In some cases Statutory Notices were not complied with, and the Council instructed that the work be carried out in default and the cost recovered by deduction from the rents of the properties.

During the year, 2 houses were condemned as unfit for human habitation, being the subject of Closing Orders made by the Council under the Housing Act, 1936. Every attempt is made to maintain the existing sub-standard houses in a reasonably habitable condition, but no satisfactory solution to the problem is available until such time that an allocation can be made of housing accommodation for the rehousing of occupants displaced from condemned houses.

The Housing Act, 1949, has deleted the term 'working classes,' and also provides for grants where houses are improved in accordance with the standard contained in Appendix iii of Circular 90/49 dated the 15th September, 1949. The Act also provides for the acquisition of property by the local authority for the purpose of:—

- (a) providing dwellings by the conversion of houses or other buildings — and
- (b) providing dwellings, and exchequer contributions may be made to cover the loss which may be incurred.

There is a considerable number of houses in the town which are sub-standard but capable of improvement, and, if acquired and rendered fit, would provide suitable housing accommodation.

On the question of housing accommodation, one observation might well be made as a result of the information given to Sanitary Inspectors and Health Visitors by those seeking adequate living quarters and that is, that accommodation of the 'flat' type would be much more popular than is generally supposed. Those families who have spent their lives so far in basements, rooms and attics, have lost the supposedly English tradition for a 'garden of their own' and would welcome the type of housing where they are relieved of the communal duties which tenancy of land requires. Further advantages of flat accommodation are that flats can be sited nearer the centre of a town and consequently on better served transport routes. This point is particularly important when accommodation for old people is being considered. From the information reaching this department, one would like to suggest that the provision of such accommodation in the Borough would be greatly appreciated by the many whose living accommodation is still very unsatisfactory.

It is quite surprising what a large proportion of houses in the Borough are without baths. The following return, supplied through the courtesy of the Lowestoft Water and Gas Company, is interesting in this respect.

Total number of Domestic Supplies in the Borough	..	..	13,007
Number of Houses with Baths	..	..	5,848
Number of Metered Domestic Supplies with Baths	..	..	99
Total number of Premises with Baths	..	..	5,947

There would, therefore, appear to be a very real need for some modern Public Baths.



NOTICES SERVED — SUMMARY

	<i>Preliminary</i>	<i>Statutory</i>
Public Health Act	288	52
Housing Act	214	68
Factories Act	29	—
Food and Drugs Act	103	—
Milk and Dairies Regulations	—	—
Shops Act	1	—
Lowestoft Corporation Act	—	22
Petroleum Consolidation Act	2	—
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	—	—

Total Notices served 779.

N.B. Preliminary notices under Public Health Act include 232 notices served in respect of 87 obstructed Public Sewers.



INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK AND DAIRIES

Routine inspections have been made of the seventeen registered dairies under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. Informal action taken in respect of contraventions of the Regulations was effective in securing compliance.

Registrations and Licences issued are as follows:—

Number of Registered Dairy Retail Premises	17
Number of Registered Milk Distributors	32
Number of Licenced Dealers in Tuberculin Tested Milk	12
Number of Licenced Dealers in Accredited Milk	0
Number of Licenced Dealers in Sterilised Milk	0
Number of Licenced Dealers in Pasteurised Milk	9
Number of Licenced Pasteurisers	2
Number of Licenced Sterilisers	0

Bacteriological samples have been taken and the results are tabulated as follows:—

<i>Designation</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Pasteurised	58	1
Tuberculin Tested	8	0
Tuberculin Tested/Pasteurised	5	2
Ordinary	25	6

Two samples of Tuberculin Tested/Pasteurised Milks failed to satisfy the Phosphatase Test which showed the milk to have been inefficiently pasteurised. The matter was taken up with the local authority responsible for the supervision of the plant.

Advisory action was taken where the samples failed to conform to the necessary standard.

Five samples of ordinary milk were submitted to the Public Health Laboratories for biological examination for the presence of living tubercle bacilli. Examinations were also made of the two samples of pasteurised milk which had failed to satisfy the phosphatase test. The reports received showed the results to have been negative.

The average daily consumption of milk in the Borough is 4,284 gallons, which indicates an average daily consumption per head of population of almost three-quarters of a pint. This figure is reasonably satisfactory although it could well be doubled in view of the rationing of other fat and protein containing foodstuffs.

The relative percentages of the grades of milk retailed are as follows:—

Tuberculin Tested	..	..	14.9%
Pasteurised	..	..	53.7%
T.T./Pasteurised	..	..	15.9%
Ordinary	..	..	15.5%

The quantity of heat treated and designated milk consumed is 85% of the total and this may be reflected in the fact that no milk borne diseases have occurred during the year.

Informal samples of milk have been taken and subjected to analysis by the 'Gerber' test. Results in all cases showed the fat and 'solids-not-fat' content to be above the legal minimum, and further action was not found to be necessary. Examinations were carried out by the staff of the Department.

In addition 30 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis and the reports received show them to have been genuine

There were several instances noted during the year where householders had failed to cleanse and place milk bottles in a suitable position to enable collection to be made by the milk roundsman. In one case there were about 150 dirty milk bottles discovered in the coalhouse of a dwelling-house. Although these cases are isolated, it is felt that emphasis should be laid upon the need for householders to rinse milk containers after use, and ensure their regular return to the dairyman as a contribution to communal hygiene.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Slaughterhouses

Seven hundred and twenty-eight visits were made during the year to the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse in the Borough, and 4,232 carcasses were inspected.

The total amount of fresh meat and offal condemned as unfit for human consumption amounted to 9 tons 12 cwts. 2 qrs. 13 lbs., of which 67.5% (14,551 lbs.) was affected by tuberculosis.

The quantity of imported meat distributed in the Borough during the year and relative condemnations were as follows:—

- (1) Carcase meat including manufacturing grades:
1656 tons 4 cwts. 2 qrs. 9 lbs.
Condemned: 1 ton 1 qr. 1 stone 3 lbs.
- (2) Canned Corn Beef: 77 tons 2 cwts. 3 qrs. 1 stone 1 lb.
Condemned: 5 cwts. 1 stone 10 lbs.
- (3) Imported Offal: 281 tons 3 qrs. 9 lbs.
Condemned: 50 lbs.

Only one case of cysticerous bovis occurred during the year and it would appear that a marked decline has occurred in the prevalence of this disease which may be due to the reduction of foreign workers employed in agriculture.

The Ministry of Food slaughterhouse on the Market Plain is used for the supply of meat to the North part of the town, while the meat for the Southern area is slaughtered at Benacre under the supervision of the Lothingland R.D.C. Sanitary Inspector.

The Lowestoft slaughterhouse has been maintained in good general repair during the year, but it is unsuitable and obsolete in many ways. No definite policy has been outlined by the Ministry of Food regarding slaughtering arrangements, although several new slaughterhouses are being constructed by local authorities. The need exists for a modern abattoir suitably situated within the Borough to supply home killed meat to Lowestoft and the surrounding district.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number killed	956	245	960	1793	278	4232
Number inspected	956	245	960	1793	278	4232
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis:—</i>						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	4	6	1	11
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	402	83	4	35	27	551
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	42 %	33.9 %	.83 %	2.28 %	10.02 %	13.28 %
<i>Tuberculosis:—</i>						
Whole carcases condemned	2	6	1	—	3	12
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	208	104	—	—	28	340
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	21.9 %	44.9 %	.104 %	—	11.15 %	8.31 %

FOOD TRANSPORT

All imported and home killed meat is transported to the retail shops by private contractors to the Ministry of Food. One only of the six vehicles used in the area is equipped with equipment for hanging the carcasses and three vehicles are about 20 years of age. The meat, however, does not remain in the vehicles for any period longer than one hour and the vehicles are subjected to daily cleansing and frequent repainting of the interiors.

All vehicles used for the transport of meat and food are subjected to inspection in accordance with the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924, and Byelaws under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

FOOD PREMISES

Regular inspections have been carried out of the 49 premises registered in accordance with Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 for the manufacture of prepared and potted foods. Informal action was taken in respect of contraventions of the requirements of Section 13 of the Act, and a satisfactory standard is being achieved.

Inspections have been carried out of most of the retail food shops within the Borough. Where necessary, letters have been sent requesting works of repair or improvements in the general facilities in relation to Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 and Shops Act, 1950.

Byelaws were made by the Council under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, relating to the handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air. These were subsequently confirmed by the Ministry of Food. The Byelaws give added powers in ensuring that the public receive a clean article of food.

It was necessary to institute legal proceedings against a baker for failure to comply with the requirements of Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and a fine of £50 and £3 3s. costs was imposed in respect of five contraventions.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

116 formal samples of food and drugs have been taken during the year, and submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis as follows:—

Milk 29; Sausage 21; Flour 5; Blancmange Powder 3; Vinegar 3; Ground Ginger 3; Meat Paste 3; Gelatine Crystals 3; Suet 3; Fish Paste 3; Coffee 2; Mustard 2; Salad Cream 2; Baking Powder 2; Arrowroot 2; Curry Powder 2; Yeast 2; Jam 2; Pudding Mixture 2; Glucose 1; Cooking Fat 1; Ginger Beer 1; Gravy Powder 1; Glauber Salts 1; Kruschen Salts 1; Saccharine (sweetening tablets) 1; Margarine 1; Honey 1; Sauce 1; Ground Almonds 1; Mixed Peel 1; Chutney 1; Mincemeat 1; Veal Cheese 1; Pineapples 1; Sandwich Spread 1; Apple Crush 1; Bay Leaves 1; Essence of Rennet 1; Sago 1; Custard Flavour and Colouring 1.

One sample of mustard and one sample of flour were found to be non-genuine and reported to the Town Clerk, who advised that proceedings were impracticable.

One sample of sausage was found to be non-genuine and a warning sent to the vendor.

One sample of Glauber Salts was found to be non-genuine, and on receipt of a warning letter this was withdrawn from stock by the vendor.

In addition to the above samples, 16 informal samples were taken as follows:—

Flour 2; Jellies 2; Mixed Spice 1; Custard Powder 1; Gravy Powder 1; Pudding Mixture 1; Chocolate Spread 1; Liquid Chocolate 1; Lime Compound 1; Baking Powder 1; Curry Powder 1; Flour 1; Isinglass 1; Jam 1.

Articles of other foods found unfit for human consumption and accordingly condemned were as follows:—

Pressed Meat 35lbs.; Sausages 37lbs.; Meat 382 tins; Bacon 104lbs.; Ham 31lbs.; Vegetables 611 tins; Milk 2,112 tins; Jam 241 tins; Fruit 1,307 tins; Soup 206 tins; Salad Cream 29 jars; Beans 21 tins; Sauce 97 jars; Cheese 133lbs.; Cheese 369 boxes; Tomato Paste 2,882lbs.; Currants 50lbs.; Butter 26lbs.; Margarine 91lbs.; Cooking Fat 53lbs.; Tea 9lbs.; Sugar 80lbs.; Confectionery 46lbs.; Crab Paste 6 jars; Fish 1,128 tins; Crabs 238lbs.; Blood 32 gallons; Frozen Salmon 141lbs.; Herring Roes 8 boxes; Wet Fish 13,656lbs.; Herrings 238lbs. 6 crans. Miscellaneous Articles 86 tins, 972lbs.

ICE CREAM

There are 14 registered manufacturers and 127 premises registered for the sale of ice cream. Regular inspections have been carried out of these premises in accordance with the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947.

Twenty-nine samples have been taken and submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical examination. Only one sample was shown to contain less than the standard 2½% fat content. This is only a standard suggested by the Ministry of Food and advisory action was taken with the vendor.

The reports received on thirty-three samples submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination showed the samples to be graded as follows:—

Grade One	..	..	21
Grade Two	..	..	4
Grade Three	..	..	6
Grade Four	..	..	2

Advisory action was taken in respect of the lower grade samples to acquire a higher standard of cleanliness in production methods, utensils and equipment.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1950, FOR THE BOROUGH OF LOWESTOFT IN THE COUNTY OF SUFFOLK.

Part I of the Act.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	70	58	9	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	193	181	20	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out - workers premises)	2	2	2	—
TOTAL	265	231	31	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			to H.M. Inspect.	by H.M. Inspect.	
Want of cleanliness S. 1	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature S. 3	2	1	—	2	—
Inadequate ventilation S. 4	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors S. 6	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences S. 7	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	3	1	—	3	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	24	19	—	9	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	2	—	—	—
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	31	23	—	14	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

Sections 110 and 111

		Section 110			Section 111	
	<i>No. of out-workers in Aug. list reqd. by S.110 (l) (c)</i>	<i>No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council</i>	<i>No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists</i>	<i>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</i>	<i>Notices served</i>	<i>prosecutions</i>
Wearing Making						
Apparel, etc.	1	—	—	—	—	—
.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nets, other than wire nets	98	—	—	—	—	—
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.	43	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	142	—	—	—	—	—



RODENT CONTROL

The extermination of rats and mice has been carried out by the three Rodent Operatives employed by the Council under the direct supervision of one of the Sanitary Inspectors.

A total of 2,632 disinfestation treatments were carried out, and a total of 2,711 inspections made. No major infestations were discovered and the majority of the treatments were carried out by poisoning. Two treatments were made of the sewers during one week in May, and followed by one week in November. This method proves to be very effective in dealing with infestations in the town sewers. A total of 364 complaints were received, and the remainder of the infestations were discovered as a result of the survey which is continually being made of the area. 59 contracts have been arranged between the occupiers of business premises whereby the Council undertake to carry out regular inspection and such treatments as may be necessary at a charge depending upon the nature and extent of the premises which are serviced.

All the work has been carried out by arrangement with the occupiers concerned, and there has been no necessity for formal action in accordance with the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following table shows the incidence of notifiable diseases during the year 1950:—

<i>Diseases</i>	<i>Total cases notified (after correction)</i>		<i>Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital</i>	<i>Total Deaths (within Borough)</i>
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	55	5	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	3	3	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	2	2	—	—
Typhoid	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	168	1	—	—
Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—
Measles	183	—	—	—

The incidence of scarlet fever remains much as it was during the previous year when there were 57 cases notified.

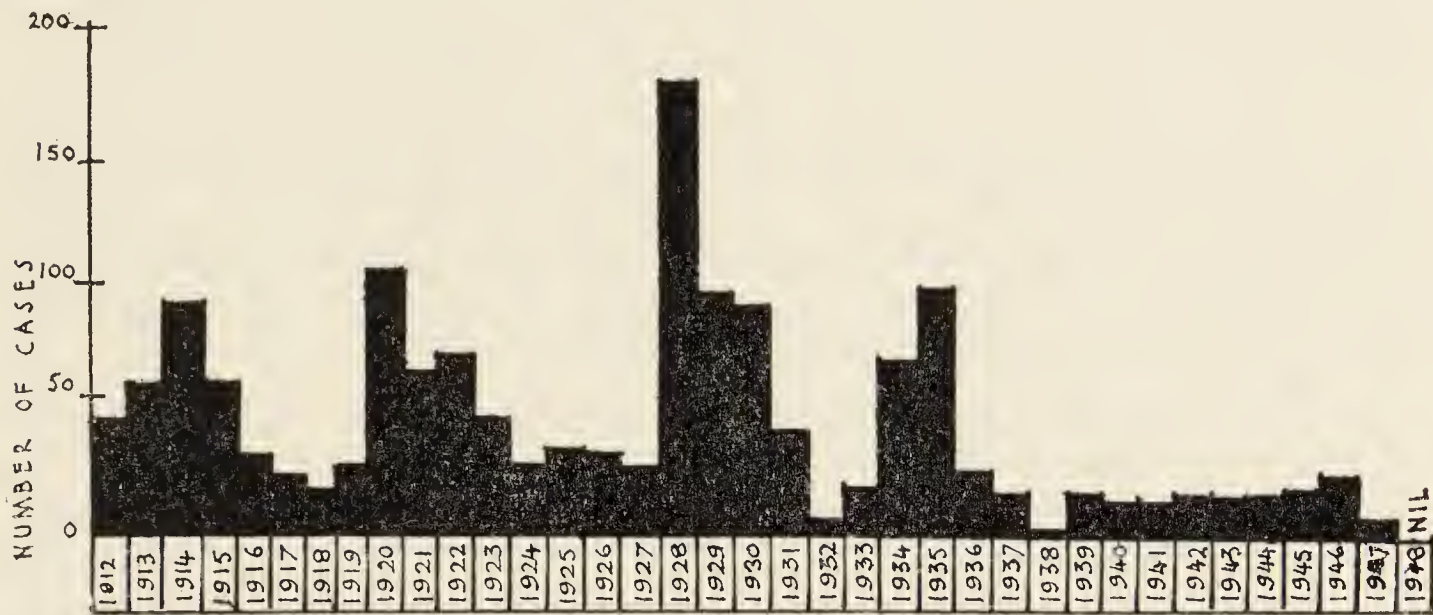
The number of cases of measles shows a gratifying drop from 350 in 1949 to 183 during the year under review.

The Borough was comparatively free from poliomyelitis, there being 3 cases only compared with 13 the year before.

The most troublesome of the infectious diseases during the year was whooping cough, there being 168 cases notified. In this connection, it may be of interest to record that during the year under review a trial was carried out in the Infant Welfare Centres of the Borough, of a combined diphtheria and whooping cough vaccine, which was provided for the purpose by the East Suffolk County Council Health Department. By using this material, it was hoped that immunity against both diphtheria and whooping cough could be imparted at one and the same time, so that the child would only have to undergo one series of injections. Unfortunately the local reactions caused at the site of the injection by this material proved somewhat severe in a high proportion of cases and this innoculation became very unpopular with both parents and children. These trials were therefore discontinued.

Once again, no cases of diphtheria occurred in the Borough. There has now been no case of this disease since 1947. In this connection, members of the Health Committee may be interested in the graph reproduced herewith, showing the incidence of diphtheria in the Borough since 1912. In pre-immunisation days, the incidence of diphtheria rose and fell periodically in a regular manner as shown by the graph, peaks occurring in 1914, 1920, 1928

and 1935. We should have expected a peak in the early 1940's, but immunisation against diphtheria having been started by then, no epidemic occurred. Again, had diphtheria still been prevalent, another peak would have been experienced around 1949-1950, but by then the almost universal acceptance of diphtheria immunisation had wiped out diphtheria in the Borough entirely.



Incidence of Diphtheria in Borough 1912 to 1949.

Quite apart from humane considerations, the saving in hospital expenses and in the cost of curative medical services, brought about by this preventive health measure must run into huge sums of money and in these days, when very heavy expenditure is being incurred by the curative medical services, it is well to draw attention to the saving in public funds which can be brought about at a fraction of the cost by the application of sound preventive health measures.

TUBERCULOSIS

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respira- tory		Non- Respira- tory		Respira- tory		Non- Respira- tory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
1—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	2	2	1	2	—	—	—	—
15—	4	8	—	—	1	—	—	—
25—	2	6	1	—	—	—	—	—
35—	1	1	—	2	—	1	—	—
45—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—	2	1	2	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	11	19	4	5	3	1	2	1
Figures tabulated by Registrar General after final transfers					6	1	2	1

LOWESTOFT AND DISTRICT T.B. CARE COMMITTEE

The Lowestoft and District T.B. Care Committee came into being following a meeting held in the Council Chamber, Lowestoft, on March 15th, 1950, of persons who were interested in helping with the social and financial problems of patients suffering from tuberculosis. The formation of such a Care Committee was initiated in the first place by the East Suffolk County Care Committee, to whom the local Care Committee are responsible.

At the preliminary meeting, some twenty persons were present. In view of the general representative nature of those present, it was decided to elect all present to form a full Care Committee, electing from this full Committee an Executive Committee of five persons. These five members were nominated on a geographical basis, so that representation of Lowestoft and its surrounding rural districts in Lothingland was assured.

Three meetings of the Executive Committee and two of the full Committee took place during the year.

In view of the somewhat small attendances at the Executive Committees during the summer months, it was evident that the Executive Committee might well be strengthened and it was felt also that through the non-appearance of some of the original members of the full Committee no useful purpose was served by continuing to include them on the Committee in future. After consultation with the Hon. Secretary of the East Suffolk County Council Care Committee, the decision was made to appoint a new Committee. A meeting was called on the 26th October of all original members who still wished to sit on the Committee agreed with the suggestions put forward and was then elected as the present Care Committee, the existing Executive Committee being dissolved and the decision taken to co-opt further persons on to the Committee who might wish to take part in the Committee's work. The Committee thus formed consisted of twelve members.

The Committee started with a grant of £50 from the East Suffolk County Care Committee. At the July meeting the Chairman suggested that each member of the Committee might make themselves responsible for raising £1. In this way a further £11 1s. 6d. was added to funds. A further cheque for £50 was received from the East Suffolk County Council in September.

At the July Committee Meeting, a letter from the Lowestoft Invalid Children's Medical Association was read by the Chairman, in which an offer was made to pay over to the Care Committee the balance of funds they had in hand, this money to be earmarked for use in cases involving aid to children. The Committee gratefully accepted this offer and recorded its deep appreciation to the Chairman, Dr. Johns, for her action in negotiating this bequest.

A most enjoyable and financially successful dance was held towards the end of the year, as a result of which £11 5s. 10d. was added to the Committee's funds and good publicity for the Committee's work obtained.



Lowestoft and District T.B. Care Committee

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD 1ST APRIL, 1950 TO 31ST MARCH, 1951.

<i>Expenditure</i>		<i>Income</i>	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Milk	— — —	By Balance brought forward 1st April, 1950	— — —
„ Other Forms of Extra Nourishment ..	— — —	„ Balance of stock of Patent Foods brought at cost price	— — —
„ Clothing	41 19 6½	„ Grants during the above period	100 0 0
„ Bedding, etc.	61 0 10	„ Gifts	6 0 0
„ Travelling expenses of relatives	20 19 1		3 0 0
„ Cost price of Patent Foods in hand on 31st March, 1951	— — —		3 1 6
„ Fuel	1 11 6		3 19 2
„ Tools and Handicraft Materials	5 6 2		4 10 9
Other Expenditure —			195 9 3
Register	12 10		5 0 0
Cheque Books	12 0		1 1 0
Balance at Bank — after all outstanding accounts to the 31st March, 1951, have been paid	203 17 6½		10 0
			1 1 0
			1 1 0
		Dance Profit ..	11 5 10
	£335 19 6		£335 19 6

LOWESTOFT PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY

ANNUAL REPORT For the Year 1950

STAFF:

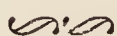
Port Medical Officer:

ARTHUR C. GEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.



Port Health Inspectors:

A. ISHERWOOD, C.R.S.I., M.S.A.I., Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector
F. W. Y. BUCKLEY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat and Foods Inspector



Offices:

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 123, High Street Lowestoft
(Telephone: LOWESTOFT 782)

1.—AMOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR 1950.

	Number	Tonnage	NUMBER INSPECTED					No. of vessels reported defective	No. of vessels on which defects were remedied	No. of vessels on which defects were found and reported to Ministry of Tpt. Surveyor	No. of vessels reported as having had, during the voyage, infectious disease on board
			By the M.O.H.	By the Sanitary Inspector	No. to be reported defective	No. of vessels on which defects were remedied	No. of vessels on which defects were found and reported to Ministry of Tpt. Surveyor				
FOREIGN.											
Steamers and Motor Vessels	4	1349	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sailing	41	9272	2	31	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fishing	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	175	5962	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL FOREIGN	220	16583	2	31	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
COASTWISE.											
Steamers and Motor Vessels	11	3604	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sailing	324	33102	—	58	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fishing (Trawlers Drifters)	2	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	1868	149440	8	39	8	8	—	—	—	—	—
	3227	177485	3	43	14	14	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL COASTWISE	5432	363655	11	140	22	22	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL FOREIGN AND COASTWISE	5652	380238	13	171	22	22	—	—	—	—	—

II.—CHARACTER OR TRADE OF PORT.

(a) *Passenger traffic during the year.*

There is no passenger traffic at this port, which is not approved under the Aliens Order, 1920.

(b) *Cargo traffic.*

Principal Imports — Timber and Salt.

Principal Exports — During the period 1st September to 31st December 1950, the principal exports from this Port were as follows:—

8,248 crans of fresh herring to Germany.

2,644 crans of fresh herring to Belgium.

5,290 crans of marinated herring.

17,185 crans of pickled herring.

21,000 crans of redded herring.

6,275,495 tins.

(c) *Foreign Ports from which vessels arrive.*

Scandinavian, Baltic and North Sea Ports.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS.

The Port is not approved for the landing of aliens.

III.—WATER SUPPLY.

There has been no change in the existing arrangements.

IV.—PORT HEALTH REGULATIONS, 1933 & 1945.

Revised Forms of Declarations of Health are being used in accordance with the Port Health Amendment Regulations, 1945.

Cases of Infectious Sickness Landed from Vessels.

There have been no cases of infectious sickness landed from vessels during the year.

There were no cases of infectious sickness occurring on vessels during the voyage but disposed of prior to arrival.

No case of Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Smallpox or Typhus occurred on any vessel during its voyage to this Port.

V.—MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

Methods of deratization, rat-proofing and other measures against rodents have continued as in previous years.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, is not applicable to shipping until such time as His Majesty may by Order in Council direct that the provisions of the Act shall apply.

There would appear to be a marked decline in the degree of infestation by rats on vessels entering the Port.

RATS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR

(1) On Vessels.

	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>Apr.</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun.</i>	<i>Jul.</i>	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Sep.</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>Nov.</i>	<i>Dec.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Black	15	5	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	40
Brown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Species not recorded	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Examined	—	3	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Infected with Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

During the year the Corporation Rodent Operatives carried out disinfection by means of poisoning, trapping and gassing (S.O.2) on 3 boats, this work entailing 10 visits.

The Railway Executive is now the responsible authority for Rodent Control in the docks, quays, wharves and warehouses. Close liaison is maintained between their Rodent Operatives and those of the Borough.

No Plague “Infected” or “Suspected” Vessels or Vessels from Plague Infected Ports arrived in the Port during the year.

Lowestoft is not a Port approved by the Minister of Health for the issue of Deratization Certificates.

VI. HYGIENE OF CREW’S SPACES.

Classification of Nuisances.

<i>Nationality of Vessel</i>	<i>No. inspected during year</i>	<i>Defects of original construction</i>	<i>Structural defects through wear and tear</i>	<i>Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health</i>
British	82	—	—	22
Other Nations	—	—	—	—

VII. FOOD INSPECTION.

1. Action taken under the Public Health (Imported Foods) Regulations, 1937, the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925-1940, and the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926.

According to the figures given by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the weight and values of fish landed at Lowestoft during the year 1950 were:—

	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Value</i>
Trawl Fish	271,716 cwts.	£1,088,694.
Herrings	154,329 crans	£486,891.

During the year 7 tons 1 cwt. 3 qrs. 1 stone of fish were found to be diseased, unsound or unwholesome and were surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption.

2. *Shell Fish.*

There are no shell fish beds in this area.

3. Number of Samples of Imported Food examined by:—

(a) Bacteriologist	Nil.
(b) Analyst	Nil.

ARTHUR C. GEE,
Port Medical Officer.

